Disputes among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry and (ii) Ravi-Beas Water Dispute among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir are before the two tribunals constituted to adjudicate the disputes. In addition, State of Andhra Pradesh has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter of violation of decision of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) by the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Similarly the State of Karnataka has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter with regard to dispute between the State of Karnataka on the one hand and States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra on the other hand on the decision of KWDT. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union of India are respondents in the Suit.

As the matter is already before the Court further action could be taken by the Central Government only as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Shortage of Teachers

1927. SHRI KHELSAI SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pay scales of Navyug School teachers in Delhi is higher than those of other Government schools;

(b) if so, whether there is acute shortage of teachers in these schools particularly in Peshwa Road;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the teacher of one subject is asked to teach another subject in which the teacher has a little knowledge; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate teachers in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that the pay scales of teachers of Navyug Schools is higher than those of other Government Schools. They have further informed that there is shortage of teachers in these schools. The main reasons are the resignation of some teachers and upgradation of schools.

(d) and (e) Stop gap arrangements have been made by assigning responsibility to teachers who have had the relevant subject at the graduation level or as one of the teaching subjects at B.Ed. level.

The appointments against vacant posts were withheld due to a directive received from the National Commission for SC/ST for providing the reservation quota for SC/ST. This has been sorted out and selection process has been initiated for recruitment/appointment of teachers.

Bridge on N.H. No. 17

1928. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the bridge over river Zuari on National Highway No. 17 in Goa;

(b) the action has been initiated on the Molt MacDonald Report;

(c) whether the bridge is safe for traffic; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to build a new bridge on the river?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Zuari Bridge was opened to traffic on 14.4.1983. Due to corosive atmosphere certain distresses were observed in Zuari bridge in 1988. Based on the recommendation of CECRI, special inspection, investigation and formulation of repair, proposal for the bridge have been called for from the consultant M/s Mott MacDonald of U.K. In the meantime, some cracks were noticed in spans on one of the piers which were also got inspected by M/s Mott MacDonald in April, 1997. The repairs plans and estimate etc. are yet to submitted by M/s Mott MacDonalds.

(c) On the basis of recommendations of consultants, only light vehicular traffic are being allowed to move over the bridge at present.

(d) There is a proposal to construct a new bridge across Zuari river on B.O.T. (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis.

Weightage to Subjects

1929. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi University does not give any weightage to Home Science/Painting/Physical Education as one of the five compulsory subjects while considering student's candidature for admission to various under-graduate courses, whereas these subjects are being taught as compulsory subjects in Government and private schools in humanities group; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to redress the difficulties being faced by the students who are forced to study these subjects as there is no other choice offered by these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Desert Triangle Scheme in Rajasthan

1930. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan Government with the help of Japan, have prepared any 'Desert Triangle Scheme' for Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and later on Jodhpur and Nagaur districts were also included in it;

(b) whether for the development of above cities, the said scheme has been sent to the Union Government for its approval;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval; and

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Rajasthan Government has not prepared any Desert Triangle Scheme with the help of Government of Japan.

Rajasthan Government had prepared a proposal for Development of Infrastructure Trousim in the Desert Triangle Jodhpur-Bikaner-Jaislamer for funding assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan in 1992. This was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for consideration. As the proposal was not detailed enough, a revised proposal was submitted by Rajasthan Government in 1994 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. In 1996 the Department of Economic Affairs suggested that the Government of Rajasthan may submit the proposal to prepare detailed feasibility studies for the Integrated Area Development Plan for the Desert Circuit of Rajasthan through Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan under Technical Co-operation Programme. Accordingly, Rajasthan Government submitted the proposal in 1997 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. This includes districts of Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur.

[English]

Promotion of Hindi

1931. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme for the promotion of Hindi in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes taken up in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are encouraging establishment of Hindi medium schools and colleges in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India are implementing the following major schemes for the promotion of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking States including West Bengal :

(i) Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/Union Territories.

(ii) Teaching of Hindi through correspondence courses.

(iii) Extension Programmes to promote Hindi.

(iv) Schemes for financial assistance to voluntary organisations.

(v) Hindi teachers traning programme.

(c) and (d) Schools and colleges are generally established by State Government/private managements keeping in view the need for school and higher education in the particular area and infrastructural facilities available.

Liquid Fuel Supply

1932. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Liquid-fuel supply pact for power producers is ready" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to increase the oil pool account of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The model fuel supply agreement has not yet been finalised. Discussions are on with IPPs, Ministry of Power, Financial Institutions etc. on the basis of the draft model FSA.